

Journey School
A California Public Charter School

Thursday, September 25, 2025

6:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Approved October 23, 2025

This meeting was held in person on the Journey School campus and live streamed via Zoom at this URL:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86025029240?pwd=3Ww1qZ3nZAbuPqWnlC6wnsvu9uqK8j.1>

Meeting ID: 860 2502 9240 Passcode: 92629
One tap mobile +16694449171,,86025029240#,,,,*92629# US

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL BY PARENTS AND CITIZENS

Journey School welcomes your participation at the school's Council meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Council is to conduct the affairs of Journey School in public. We are pleased that you are in attendance. To assist you in the ease of speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided:

1. *Agendas are available to audience members during the meeting and on the school website.*
2. *“Request to Speak” cards are available for all audience members who wish to speak prior to an agenda item or under the general category of “Public Comment.” “Public Comment” time is set aside for members of the audience to raise issues that are not specifically on the agenda. However, due to public meeting laws, the Council can only listen to your issue, not discuss your issue, respond in substance or take action. These presentations are limited to five (5) minutes (ten (10) minutes if a translator is needed) and total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed thirty (30) minutes. The Council may give direction to staff to respond to your concern.*
3. *With regard to items that are on the agenda, you may specify that agenda item on your “Request to Speak” card and submit the card prior to an agenda item. The public comment period precedes presentations on that agenda item by staff and/or school committees, Council discussion, and deliberation. You will be given an opportunity to speak for up to five (5) minutes (ten (10) minutes if a translator is needed).*
4. *When addressing the Council, speakers are requested to state their name and adhere to the time limits set forth.*
5. *Audience members attending a meeting virtually are required to follow the guidelines specified in points 1 through 4 with the following exception noted: In lieu of a “Request to Speak” card, an audience member may utilize the chat function to indicate their name and a request to speak under the general category of “Public Comment” or at a specific agenda item. All other comments, questions, and dialogue entered into the chat will not be entered into public record and will not be responded to/addressed.*

Notices: *Journey does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in employment in its programs or activities. Please notify the office at (949) 448-7232 twenty-four (24) hours prior to the date of the meeting for disability accommodations necessary in order to participate. Per California Government Code section 54957.5(b), Journey shall make materials that are part of the regular agenda packet available in the office and/or on the school's website www.journeyschool.net, without delay and at the same time, they are distributed to the Council.*

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	AGENDA ITEM	SPONSOR	EST. TIME
1	<p>Call to Order and Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m. by Mike Allbee.</p> <p>BOARD MEMBERS: Michael Allbee, Council President - PRESENT Margaret Moodian, Council Secretary - PRESENT Jeannie Lee, Board Member - PRESENT Lisa Murray, Board Member - ARRIVED AT 6:52 p.m.</p> <p>ADVISORY POSITIONS: Renalani Moodley, Parent Cabinet Advisor - PRESENT</p> <p>Also Present: Gaylen Corbett - Clerk of the Board Kevin McHale - Parent/Member of the public Larry Tamayo - ExED, arrived at 6:45 p.m. And Zoom attendees</p>		
2	<p>Inspirational Passage - Jeannie Lee shared an inspirational passage from The Happiness Project which concluded that the most important factor in determining happiness is the quality of our relationships, stating that "Loneliness kills. It's as deadly as smoking or alcoholism."</p>		
3	<p>Approval of Agenda*</p> <p>Jeannie made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments as noted below. Margaret seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.</p> <p>7A: Change description to omit the reference to a new contract with Brightstar Care, as there is no new contract. 7D: Change this topic to "Adoption of Student Residency Policy" 7E: Remove from agenda. 8B: Remove this item and table it until the November meeting.</p> <p>NOTE: The order of the agenda may be changed without prior notice to the public.</p>		
4	<p>PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public may contribute public comment via Zoom teleconference. Reminder: See policy above for time guidelines.</p> <p>A public comment was offered by Kevin McHale. He shared his gratitude to Journey School and its board members. He noted that there is currently a divide in the parent body. There are some parents who are afraid that STEM programs are being pushed much harder at Journey, and some parents are afraid that the neuro diverse community is allegedly growing exponentially. Although he understands these concerns, he has done his best to evaluate those claims and has not found any evidence that the school or the board is moving in those directions. He would like to start working to make that communication clear to the community. He stated that people who come to a Waldorf community are generally not confrontational. He applied to become of a member of the Parent Advisory Committee and he will share his experiences with the PAC prior to that agenda item.</p> <p>Gilliam Buckly commented via Zoom. She stated that there is not a lower grades music teacher at this time,</p>		

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	<p>and noted that on the first day of school she witnessed several confused teachers waiting for a music teacher who never arrived. This showed that some teachers were not informed of changes to the program. She said that there are rumors that the program may be cut in the future in order to fund raises for main class teachers. She asked how music funding is being used if a music teacher is not in place. Music is not optional in Waldorf education. It is a fundamental element of Waldorf education. Music helps to develop rhythm, fosters harmony in the classroom, and nurtures the whole child. In light of this, she is respectfully asking the board to provide transparency on 1) the current status and future of the lower grades program, 2) the role and usage of any music related grant funding, 3) whether the faculty was informed of changes to music instruction, and 4) how the school will uphold the core musical elements of Waldorf education going forward.</p>
5	<p>CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: Items on Consent Agenda may be approved with one motion and vote for all but without discussion. If an item is to be discussed, it is removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to an Action Item immediately following the Consent Items.</p> <p>A. Approval of Minutes*: Minutes from regular meeting of August 28, 2025</p> <p>B. DIR Form*: Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) for Journey’s workers’ compensation. We are now a member of CharterSafe, a JPA. The DIR requires all CharterSafe members to obtain their certification of self-insurance for workers’ compensation.</p> <p>C. Proposition 28 Annual Report*: Details Journey School’s use of Proposition 28 funds to support arts and music education during the 2024-2025 school year.</p> <p>Jeannie requested to pull item 5A. Jeannie made a motion to approve consent items 5B and 5C. Margaret seconded the motion and those items were unanimously approved.</p> <p>Jeannie requested that on the August 28th meeting minutes, item 7C, that the word "data" be changed to "information." Margaret made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jeannie seconded the motion and they were unanimously approved.</p>
6	<p>INFORMATION ITEMS: Reports</p> <p>A. Faculty Update: Jeannie shared an update on Faculty activities including the 6th grade overnight camping trip that her class just returned from. Jeannie will see faculty representatives to attend the upcoming faculty meetings.</p> <p>B. Parent Cabinet Update: Renalani shared an update on Parent Cabinet activities including finances,. PC will make its standard annual donation to the school of \$60k, as well as discretionary funds for teachers. PC participation is excellent. Harvest Faire preparations are underway, led by Ashley Rowell and a team of strong leaders. Calendar sales and spirit wear have been popular. Clothes for Cash, plus reselling donated items is going well. Renalani asked if administration could help PC with communication regarding STEM and the music teacher position. She asked if there is a way that PC could help with kindergarten yard beautification such as purchasing lunch tables to match the ones that older grades have. They will help to research the correct size tables.</p> <p>C. Administrative Update: Gavin and Shelley reported on enrollment, school events, first weeks of school, Journey Forward Fund, and other updates re: school operations. Enrollment is slightly higher than budgets and enrollment is strong. Recent events include the Rose Ceremony and Back to School Nights. Gavin agreed that there is some discord in the parent body, and encourages</p>

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parents to speak directly to the administrators. We are not becoming a STEM school or diverting funds from the music program. Shelley explained that music instruction is traditionally taught by the main class teacher in the lower grades. Journey hired a lower grades music teacher years ago when our lower grades had teachers who were not Waldorf trained. At this time, our lower grades teachers are Waldorf trained and comfortable with singing. Our current music teacher, Devan Steele, will be supporting lower grades teachers with flute and/or recording lessons in the spring. Music is not supposed to be a separate class with a teacher pushing in, and that was made clear in our master schedule provided to teachers.

Jeannie noted that there's so much information for teachers to absorb at the beginning of the year that there may have been a few who overlooked information about teaching music. Music instruction is a main component of Waldorf teacher training. Singing is currently a common practice with main class teachers and their students, as well as in every faculty meetings, and there has been a successful effort to bring singing back into all classes following the COVID years where it was largely prohibited. Gavin stated that the position of lower grades music teacher has been and is currently listed as an opening on Journey School's EdJoin hiring page and the position is still fully funded in our school budget.

Gavin stated that the board and administration was very happy to have negotiated a sizable pay increase of 6% of faculty at a total cost of \$209,000, which is part of why there are efforts to renew our annual giving campaign and considering other revenue sources such as offering conferences and the Art of Teaching training program.

Gavin will be holding a coffee talk or town hall in the near future to invite parents to ask questions and get clarity on topics of concern, providing an opportunity for direct communication. Renal asked if the administrators would be willing to post a statement with simple clarification about the music teacher position and STEM rumors.

Our School Food Authority application was approved. Williams Reporting will visit campus on October 8th to make sure that campus is up to Ed Code and that students have access to curriculum. Shelley reported that the Respect Tour was just conducted for grades 1-8. Lisa suggested that information about the Respect Tour could be shared with parents.

Michaelmas season is happening now so dragons can be found around campus. New playground equipment for lower grades supports cooperation instead of competition. Shelley also reported on working with main class and specialty teachers to help with communication about student behavior, to help hone in on specific student needs, and individual class needs.

- D. **Financial Update***: Larry shared a report on budget updates for the 2025-26 school year as detailed in his written report. State Revenue: Expanded Learning Opportunity funding rate went down from \$2k/student to \$1,575/student, which equates to a loss of approximately \$16k, so we will budget accordingly. These funds are used to support aftercare programs. Prop 28 Arts & Music funds must be used for supplemental expenses that are in addition to our 2023-24 baseline year expenditures. Prop 28 funds are ongoing, until the state gets rid of the funding. The school has 128 days of cash on hand. There is a discretionary block grant available that can be used if needed, or it can be deferred to future years. The state clawed back \$38k, and then returned \$11k. We will probably not use the \$11k this year, and may receive an additional \$11k for the next two years to

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	<p>make up for the claw back. The Learning Recovery Block Grant can be used with anything to help students who are struggling. Our final audits are going well and a draft is expected to be ready by the next council meeting.</p>
7	<p>SCHOOL OPERATIONS: Discussion/Action</p> <p>A. Updates to Staffing Plan 2025-26*: Gavin reviewed updates to the Staffing Plan. No additional staff members have been added. We are still seeking a music teacher and the position is still funded in the budget. Two support staff members were hired for Little Acorns aftercare to meet the program's enrollment. Two of them are Journey School alumni.</p> <p>Margaret made a motion to approve the updated staffing plan. Jeannie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.</p> <p>B. Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)*: There were two public comments regarding Item 7B: Amanda Sturges: Amanda asked that the council consider approving revisions that the PAC has been working on since the attorney reviewed the bylaws. She asked that council tentatively approve the most recent changes. She noted that if council approves the bylaws without the most recent changes, then it would further delay the process and continue the strain on the parent body due to miscommunications about the PAC.</p> <p>Kevin McHale: Kevin is concerned about division in the parent body. There may have been a misconception by the PAC that they had to represent a specific number of unduplicated pupils as specified in the current bylaws, which is unfortunate because it prevented them from adding someone like himself or other applicants to the committee. Having more parents on the committee would provide a better outlook. Also in the current bylaws it states that the PAC was supposed to create a process by which to fill those vacancies, initially the executive director had that role, but the process hadn't been established in the past year. There was some informal communication that Kevin would not be selected because he would not represent the low income community. He would like to move forward and assure the committee that he has the most positive intentions for the Journey community. From the PAC bylaws, Article 3, Membership, states 7-9 members. It does not specify as to whether it should have all seats filled, or as many seats filled as possible. This creates a possibility of the committee choosing to not elect members who don't think like them. He doesn't think that's currently happening, but it concerns him. Section v.05 Vacancies: Talks about vacancies due to death or other reasons. He says that should be changed to indicate vacancies of any kind. He also noted that parents are experiencing too much screen exposure from ParentSquare etc. which caused the PAC to be overlooked by parents. He suggests creating opportunities for face-to-face interactions instead of through a screen.</p> <p>Following public comment, Gavin reviewed the proposed changes to the existing bylaws of the PAC and input as noted by the school's legal counsel. Gavin notes that PAC is not an advocacy group or representatives of parents, but rather was formed to provide input on the PAC. The attorney was concerned that the PAC is meeting so frequently, meeting monthly instead of just several times per year. Gavin is concerned about the demand on volunteers' time and that such a time requirement may be a barrier to some parents that may want to participate. He appreciates the input offered by PAC which was very helpful last year, along with input from other entities within the community. The amount of time that PAC is requesting of the administrator is also excessive. Gavin urges the</p>

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PAC to hold their election in November to allow time to work through the nuances in the bylaws including recent changes that have not been reviewed by the attorney. In regards to having students participate in the PAC, that would also be a challenge for their time. There could be an option to have students sit on a separate student advisory committee, but not serve as full members of the PAC. This would meet the new requirement for student representation. Gavin stated that it's very important that we get these bylaws right. Renalani clarified that the PAC doesn't want to meet monthly, but has been meeting frequently as has been necessary at this stage of its development. Gavin noted that it may be efficient to spend an hour together with the school's attorney and the PAC to work through this process together. Renalani asked who is responsible to inform the community about the purpose of the PAC. Mike suggested that it would be the council directing the administrator to do so.

Council members agreed that the PAC bylaws will be tabled until the October council meeting.

C. Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI)*:

Public Comment: Renalani Moodley offered a public comment. The full text of her comment is shared at the end of these minutes. She shared her concern that the CYBHI school-based mental health services MOU is written as a bullying and compliance document, instead of a trauma informed healing centered approach. Children who are referred to this service will be among our most vulnerable. For them safety, trust, empowerment and partnerships are essential. Without clear language in the MOU, trauma-informed practices become dependent on the individual goodwill of the person delivering it, rather than a shared standard of care. She urges council to strengthen this agreement with an addendum that includes trauma-informed principles such as family voice, culturally responsive services, and staff training. Doing so will align with California Your Behavioral Health Initiative, but will ensure that it is designed with the children's best interests at its center.

Gavin explained that the CYBHI grant will provide additional counselors for Journey School. They would be interviewed and trained by the school, but would not be our employees. They would provide early intervention and behavior services, and would increase the number of adults available to respond to student needs. There would be no cost to the school or to families. Each family's insurance company would be billed for the cost. This would help families have access to mental health services at no cost. They would provide crisis and wrap-around services, including suicide prevention services, trauma-informed training. They offer many courses on social-emotional learning and mental health teaching tools which could be helpful to Journey teachers. We would use our Care Streams to determine which students would benefit from these services. The program would be started with a small number of counselors and could be increased if desired.

Council members reviewed and discussed additional counseling and support services that could be made available for students at Journey School.

Margaret made a motion to approve the CYBHI MOU. Jeannie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

D. Adoption of Student Residency Policy*:

Public Comment: Kevin McHale stated that he is glad that we have students from all over.

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	<p>Gavin explained that in the school's charter it is stated that we can admit students from Orange County and any adjacent county. Our attorney recommended having a stand-alone document that outlines this policy. This would not affect any of our currently enrolled students. Jeannie asked if we could make exceptions for emergencies. Gavin explained that would not be allowed by Ed Code, but that students that are homeless or living in temporary housing could be admitted.</p> <p>Margaret made a motion to adopt the Student Residency Policy. Margaret seconded the motion and it was unanimously adopted.</p>
8	<p>BOARD DEVELOPMENT and OVERSIGHT (Discussion/Action):cc</p> <p>A. Strategic Plan: Council members reviewed the draft of the strategic plan and adoption. Shelley noted that the Strategic Plan will be presented to faculty at their next meeting.</p> <p>Margaret made a motion to adopt the Strategic Plan. Jeannie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.</p> <p>B. Board Development: THIS ITEM WAS TABLED UNTIL THE NOVEMBER MEETING. Nomination and voting on new boardmember, and appointment of treasurer.</p> <p>C. Schedule of Meetings*: Review schedule of meetings</p> <p>D. Annual Brown Act Training and Ethics Training for AB 1234: Review of requirements and expectations for these trainings.</p> <p>Margaret made a motion to enter a closed session. Jeannie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The board entered closed session at 8:27 p.m.</p>
9	<p>CLOSED SESSION: The meeting will now convene to closed session to discuss the matter described below:</p> <p>A. Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9: Regarding anticipated litigation</p> <p>No action was taken in the closed session.</p>
10	<p>Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.</p>

Agenda publicly posted on the school website at www.journeyschool.net on September 22, 2025.

***Items that are expected to have back up materials provided prior to or at the meeting are indicated with an asterisk. Other items may also have back up materials provided.**

Public Comment by Renalani Moodley:

"Good evening, I'd like to share a brief reflection on the Memorandum of Understanding for school-based mental health services. While I fully support the intent of this partnership, I am concerned that the current agreement is written largely as a billing and compliance document.

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What it does not reflect is the heart of what our children need: a trauma-informed, healing-centered approach.

"The children who will be referred for these services are among our most vulnerable. For them, safety, trust, empowerment, and family partnership are not optional — they are essential. Without clear language in the MOU, trauma-informed practice becomes dependent on individual goodwill rather than a shared standard of care.

"I urge the district to strengthen this agreement with an addendum that includes trauma-informed principles — such as family voice, culturally responsive services, safe and welcoming therapy spaces, and staff training. Doing so will not only align with California's Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative but will also reassure families that these services are designed with their children's well-being at the center.

"Thank you for considering this important step to ensure our partnerships reflect not only compliance, but compassion and best practice."